

# Jane Collins – Painter

## When did you first become serious about art?

I became serious about art at a very young age. My sister was already in art school when I was quite young so I constantly tried to copy what she did. I was told that my mother thought that it was just a sort of hero worship but as I grew up I persisted in my intense interest in all kinds of artwork. I eventually graduated from Mass. College of Art and went to Italy to study returning with a Master of Arts degree. After that I taught in public school for five years.

## What medium do you work in? Why?

I really do work in all mediums. My fine art exhibits lately have been mostly in acrylics. Several years ago my deepest interest was in watercolor (which I still love). I have painted in oils but they do get messy while painting outdoors which I do weekly with my South Shore painting group called the "Tuesday Painters." I have been a television courtroom artist in Boston for a number of years. As such, I work only in pastels on a grey paper, which gives you the fastest immediate color with which to fill the page. Actually the paper is quite large at 18 inches by 24 inches. Although I have always done portraits, I have developed a strong affinity for my recent efforts done with charcoal on a buff colored paper.

## Do you make a living as an artist?

I wouldn't say that my artwork provides a living wage but it is a great help for extras and vacations etc.

## What artists or artworks inspired you?

After five years of art study, I certainly appreciate the great masters that I studied in Italy like Michelangelo, especially. I greatly admire John Singer Sargent and the contemporary artist Richard Schmid. I certainly admire the wonderful portraiture by Constance Flavell Pratt, my sister.

## Describe your creative process.

My creative process is always to think ahead if possible but if you are rushing because of moving subjects or changing light outside, then be sure to always take the time to step back. Artwork looks entirely different up close than from a little distance. Part of the process is to accept "happy mistakes" and make the most of them while creating. The rest of the process belongs to research and hard work and finally, self-judgment.



PHOTO/DAVE MACCAFERRI

Jane Collins displays two scenes she drew during the 2003 trial of the "Shoe Bomber", Richard Reid.

## If someone is looking at one of your works, what feelings, thoughts or ideas do you want them to have?

I would hope that anyone looking at my artwork would find beauty and peace in my landscapes and seascapes.... the beauty of human articulation in the portraits and the feeling of being there in the courtroom art.

## Finish the following sentence:

"Art is..."

As so many before me, I believe that "art is".... indescribable and eternal!

## Where can people go to see or buy your work?

I have had several exhibits recently in Duxbury, Hingham, Cohasset and Norwell. I continue to look for opportunities to exhibit my work.

Of course the courtroom art can be seen on WBZ-TV4, WCVB-TV5 and TV25 whenever there is a Federal Court proceeding that is of interest to the public.

Visit Jane Collins website at [janecollinsartist.com](http://janecollinsartist.com).

See a slide show of Jane Collins work at [www.wickedlocalduxbury.com](http://www.wickedlocalduxbury.com)

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